

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: /A

TAGS: PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: STATEMENT ON DESTABLIZATION BY JAMAICAN MINISTER
IN TRINIDAD

REF: KINGSTON 2741

1. CANA STORY REPORTED IN REFTEL MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH GOJ MINISTER OF MINING AND NATURAL RESOURCES CLARKE WHICH WAS CARRIED IN THE JULY 1 EDITION OF THE "TRINIDAD GUARDIAN". THE INTERVIEW WAS HELD DURING CLARKE'S VISIT TO TRINIDAD TO ATTEND A MEETING ON THE ALUMINUM SMELTER PROJECT. AS STATED IN REFTEL, MUCH OF THE INTERVIEW DEALT WITH JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. CLARKE DID, HOWEVER, REPLAY THE AMBIGUOUS GOJ CHARGES THAT A CAMPAIGN OF DESTABILIZATION WAS BEING CONDUCTED AGAINST JAMAICA BY UNSPECIFIED FOREIGN POWERS.

2. EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF ANY OTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY CLARKE IN TRINIDAD AND HIS COMMENTS ON DESTABILIZATION HAVE NOT APPEARED ELSEWHERE IN THE LOCAL MEDIA. CANA'S TRINIDAD REPRESENTATIVE HAS TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT HE WAS
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TOTALLY UNAWARE OF ANY STATEMENTS BY CLARKE.

3. RELEVANT EXCERPTS FROM THE "GUARDIAN" ARTICLE FOLLOW:

QUOTE MR. CLARKE WHO TOOK OVER THE MINING AND NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTRY FOLLOWING THE SACKING IN JANUARY OF MR. ALLAN ISAACS, ALSO COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON THE CAUSE AND EFFECTS OF INFLATION, DESTABILIZATION FORCES AND THE POTENTIAL ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF THE REGIONAL SMELTER PLANT DESPITE EXISTENCE OF SIMILAR PLANTS ELSEWHERE.

4. MR. CLARKE SAID HE PERSONALLY HAD NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE TO PROVE OR TO POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE COUNTRY OR ORGANIZATION ENGAGED IN ACTS DESIGNED TO DESTABILIZE THE COUNTRY.

5. "BUT." HE NOTED, "THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE SUGGEST THAT DESTABILIZATION IS OPERATIVE.

6. "THERE HAS BEEN A SPATE OF INDUSTRIAL UNREST, CRIMES UNRELATED TO HISTORY OR CIRCUMSTANCES, SOPHISTICATION IN ACTIVITIES OF ORCHESTRATED VIOLENCE, NUMBERS OF PEOPLE SUDDENLY HAVING CARS AND MOTORCYCLES AND A LOT OF SPENDING MONEY," MR. CLARKE STATED.

7. THE JAMAICAN MINISTER SAID HIS GOVERNMENT STARTED GETTING UNUSUAL ATTENTION, WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA GIVING THE COUNTRY MUCH MORE COLUMNS FOLLOWING CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS.

8. HE IDENTIFIED THOSE DEVELOPMENTS AS THE JAMAICA GOVERNMENTS' EMBARKATION ON AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY INVOLVING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH CUBA; FURTHER INVOLVEMENT IN THE THIRD WORLD; AND AT THE SAME TIME INCREASING ITS POPULARITY AT THE POLLS BY WINNING FOUR CRUCIAL BY-ELECTIONS IN A PERIOD WHEN WORLDWIDE RECESSION WAS TAKING TOLL ON JAMAICA.

9. MR. CLARKE SAID THE NATURE OF DESTABILIZATION - A WORD WHICH WAS FIRST MENTIONED DURING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS REGARDING CIA ACTIVITIES IN CHILE- WAS "SUBTLE AND DISGUISED AND THEREFORE DOES NOT PERMIT THE GOVERNMENT TO CHARGE THE COUNTRY INVOLVED".

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10. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THERE HAD BEEN AT LEAST SOME EXAMPLES IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE WHICH BORE TESTIMONY TO THE DESTABILIZATION ACTS...

11. "WHAT COMPOUNDS THE PROBLEM MORE SO," HE WENT ON, "IS THE CURIOUS VENGEANCE AND BITTERNESS THAT SOME MEDIA-LOCAL AND LARGELY FOREIGN INTERNATIONAL - REPORT ON JAMAICA.

12. "ITS BEGINNINGS, ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND ITS ORCHESTRATION

HAS BEEN TOO REFINED AND SOPHISTICATED NOT TO BE DELIBERATE.
IT BEGAN WITH IMF (INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND) CONFERENCE
IN JANUARY", MR. CLARKE SAID....

13. ASKED WHETHER THE "SUBVERSIVE" MOVEMENT AGAINST THE
STATE WAS EVIDENT IN SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, BUSINESS AND ELSEWHERE,
MR. CLARKE SAID EMPHATICALLY:

14. "SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS USE ANY AND EVERY MEDIA",
HE SAID, AND POINTED AN ACCUSING FINGER AT BUSINESSMEN
FOR THEIR ILLICIT TRANSFER OF MONEY THAT HELPED TO
DRAIN THE ECONOMY. END QUOTE.
FAY

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